

From: Tony Magnuson
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/25/02 2:25pm
Subject: anti-trust case

The settlement was presented in a way that showed Microsoft's cost in settlement as inflated. The perception is one of Justice serving special interests. This is in the face of the large cache of capital Microsoft maintains which constitutes a tax break for the company and its investors and inflates the value of its stock.

A decision by Justice should foster competition, increase shareholder value overall, increase transparency, and send a message that dissembling tactics are not acceptable, even by powerful corporations. I believe the original proposal to break Microsoft into discrete units would have accomplished this.

Microsoft is not the only company in the tech arena to be guilty of such tactics, but it represents a clear starting point. This action should not finish with a settlement like this that shows the federal government partnering with Microsoft in wrongdoing. This action should be a beginning of scrutiny of the standards of behavior for industry and the nation as a whole. You will remember Enron.

I am a small business owner and investor in Northern California and user of Microsoft products. I do not want a refund from the company nor anything that would benefit the company nor even the sector specifically. Such a settlement would validate legal bullying and squabbling as a method of reducing competition. I would like to see any settlement invested in the establishment of fairness and transparency in industry as a whole.
sincerely,

David Magnuson
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